

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/885,415

Examiner

Taghi T. Arani

Applicant(s)

SHAMOON, TALAL G.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course: **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/12/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2 and 11-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


AYAZ SHEIKH

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Cancel claims 31-34.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Stephen Andrew B. Schwaab on 02/09/2006.

Cancel claim 28.

Replace in claim 1 at line 12, "a retrofitting appliance connected to the output of the electronic appliance for " with "a retrofitting appliance including an input electrically connected to the output of the electronic appliance, the retrofitting appliance being operable to".

Replace in claim 1 at line 20, "an output device connected" with "an output device electrically coupled".

Replace in claim 1 at line 21, "decoded content" with " decoded audio and/or visual content".

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-2, 11-27 are allowed over prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable claimed subject matter.

Closest prior art of record singly or in combination fails to disclose " a retrofitting appliance for governing the use of decoded content as structured in independent claims 1, 11, 21

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and 23, where the retrofitting appliance is connected to the output of the electronic appliance and an output device connected to the ab output of the retrofitting appliance for presenting decoded content to the user of the electronic appliance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

None of the prior art of record, either taken by itself or in any combination, would have anticipated or made obvious the invention of the present application at or before the time it was filed.

Depended claims 2, 12-20, 22, 24-27 are allowed over prior art by virtue of their dependencies.

Conclusion

Prior arts made of record, not relied upon:

US patent 5,825,879 to Davis is directed to a secure video content processor ("SVCP") which receives encrypted digital video information and converts it into analog information for a monitor while preventing unauthorized access to the intermediate unencrypted digital data. The SVCP uses hardware envelopes to prevent unauthorized access to the decrypted digital stream. When a need arises to transmit digital data outside the hardware envelope, the digital data is encrypted and then decrypted when it re-enters a hardware protected section of circuitry.

US Patent 6,081,290 to Schmidt et al. is directed to a broadcast signal receiver retrofit apparatus that receives broadcast signals, detects rating or category codes therein and compares

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the detected codes to a setting set in the retrofit device. If the comparison indicates that the incoming signal has a rating greater than that set or is of an undesired category the broadcast signal is blocked or an audio or visual alert is given. The retrofit device may be tamper-resistant to prevent disabling the device.

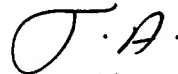
US patent 6,751,321 to Kato et al. is directed to a source of MPEG2 video data connected with a dedicated AV device or personal computer by means of an IEEE 1394 interface. A transmission unit in the source has an IEEE 1394 encryption unit and a sending I/F unit. A reception unit varies between the dedicated AV unit and the personal computer. In the reception unit of the dedicated AV device, a receiving I/F unit and a decryptor are integrally incorporated into one semiconductor chip and an MPEG2 decoder is incorporated into one semiconductor chip. In the reception unit of the personal computer, the receiving I/F unit is formed of one semiconductor chip, and the decryptor connected to the I/F unit through a bus, and the MPEG2 decoder are formed of one semiconductor chip. Thus, data before decryption will not appear on the bus, which prevents MPEG2 video data from being taken out of the computer for illegal copying purposes. In addition, the reception unit is made to have a different physical configuration depending on whether it is to be mounted in the dedicated AV device or the personal computer. This will prevent the reception unit (including the decryptor) of the dedicated AV device from being connected in the personal computer in place of its associated reception unit (excluding the decryptor).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taghi T. Arani whose telephone number is (571) 272-3787. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 Mon-Fri.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.
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Art Unit 2131


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